THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Desert Triangle Scheme in Rajasthan

1930. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rajasthan Government with the help of Japan, have prepared any 'Desert Triangle Scheme' for Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts and later on Jodhpur and Nagaur districts were also included in it;

(b) whether for the development of above cities, the said scheme has been sent to the Union Government for its approval;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in according approval; and

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) The Rajasthan Government has not prepared any Desert Triangle Scheme with the help of Government of Japan.

Rajasthan Government had prepared a proposal for Development of Infrastructure Trousim in the Desert Triangle Jodhpur-Bikaner-Jaislamer for funding assistance from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan in 1992. This was forwarded to Deptt. of Economic Affairs for consideration. As the proposal was not detailed enough, a revised proposal was submitted by Rajasthan Government in 1994 and the same was forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs. In 1996 the Department of Economic Affairs suggested that the Government of Rajasthan may submit the proposal to prepare detailed feasibility studies for the Integrated Area Development Plan for the Desert Circuit of Rajasthan through Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Government of Japan under Technical Co-operation Programme. Accordingly, Rajasthan Government submitted the proposal in 1997 and the same was forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs. This includes districts of Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner and Nagaur.

[English]

Promotion of Hindi

1931. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special scheme for the promotion of Hindi in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes taken up in the last five years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government are encouraging establishment of Hindi medium schools and colleges in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of India are implementing the following major schemes for the promotion of Hindi in the non-Hindi speaking States including West Bengal :

(i) Appointment and Training of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States/Union Territories.

(ii) Teaching of Hindi through correspondence courses.

(iii) Extension Programmes to promote Hindi.

(iv) Schemes for financial assistance to voluntary organisations.

(v) Hindi teachers traning programme.

(c) and (d) Schools and colleges are generally established by State Government/private managements keeping in view the need for school and higher education in the particular area and infrastructural facilities available.

Liquid Fuel Supply

1932. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Liquid-fuel supply pact for power producers is ready" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated July 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to help to increase the oil pool account of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The model fuel supply agreement has not yet been finalised. Discussions are on with IPPs, Ministry of Power, Financial Institutions etc. on the basis of the draft model FSA.